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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

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REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st December, 1948



# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

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## Report for the Year 1948

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*To:—*

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This report covers a year in which the National Health Service came into force, bringing with it the start of very large changes in the public health organisation of the country. The changes have been made necessary in order that the greater facilities now made available by recent advances in medicine and bacteriology shall be more easily available to the population. Thus responsibility for the treatment of cases of infectious disease now passes to the Regional Hospital Board, and your Medical Officer of Health is more than ever concerned with the preventive aspect of the control of infectious disease, rather than the curative side. Modern bacteriology is so complex that many laboratory procedures need behind them the full resources of the Central Laboratory Service in order to be fully efficient. The Public Health Laboratory Service has set up a Regional Laboratory in the Worcester Royal Infirmary and has taken over responsibilities for all public health bacteriology within the county; thus simplifying the procedure necessary to obtain specialised assistance and advice in certain investigations.

Many outbreaks of food poisoning up and down the country have been reported in the last few years. It is not clear whether the recent improvements in the laboratory service which have enabled these events to be fully investigated, has brought more cases to light, or the spread of habits of communal feeding and

the more frequent bulk preparations of food has been responsible for an actual increase in the number of outbreaks of food poisoning. The responsibility in any one district for the places where food is prepared (e.g. cafes and snack bars,) now appears to be extended over a very much larger area than the district in which the premises are situated. In the case of Upton-upon-Severn the main trunk road passing from Bristol to Birmingham carries very heavy traffic, and outbreaks of food poisoning arising from any of the eating houses in our district would therefore have repercussions in many parts of the country. For this reason special watch has had to be kept on the conditions under which food is prepared, and a great deal of unofficial propaganda has been applied to these places in the past year. Equipment, and the provision of adequate and pure supplies of water still remain problems in many areas. Standards of hygiene in food preparation are much the same as in many other parts of the country, but they do need improvement, and will require continuous and close supervision in the future.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the staff for the friendly and co-operative way in which they welcomed me as a new colleague in June, 1948.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*



*Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.*

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of inhabited houses, according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	3,505
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£58,841
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£237

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Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	13,450
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	17.1
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	26.08
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	11.6
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	34.7

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*Comparable data for England and Wales, 1948.*

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	17.9
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	10.8
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	34.0

*General Provision of Health Services for the Area.*

## LABORATORY SERVICES

Chemical analysis is carried out, as before, by arrangement with the County Laboratory at the County Buildings. Bacteriological examinations are now carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Clinics.—There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton-upon-Severn	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland	2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Hanley Swan	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity and Eye Cases.

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

## for the Year ending December, 1948

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report on the Sanitary Inspector's work for the year ended December, 1948. It is impossible in an annual report to embody completely the achievements and endeavours of the department throughout the year. Thus, one is reluctantly compelled to mainly rely on statistics to convey some idea of the many varied duties in connection with the office.

Such works and duties continue to increase each year. Unfortunately, owing to the restrictions still considered necessary by the Central Government, one's efforts do not always produce the desired results, and this is especially evident in housing repair work.

### *Summary of Inspections.*

Housing inspections	...	...	...	...	...	12
General complaints	...	...	...	...	...	61
School inspections (sanitary accommodation)	...	...	...	...	...	25
Visits for water and milk sampling	...	...	...	...	...	63
Visits to food shops	...	...	...	...	...	54
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	27
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	55
Cow shed inspections	...	...	...	...	...	75
Investigations, infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	40
Inspections, tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	15
Drainage inspections	...	...	...	...	...	123
Rats and mice destruction inspections	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to hop pickers' dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	7

Repair licences inspections (Civil Building Control)	64
Miscellaneous and re-inspections ... ..	397
Visits in connection with Requisitioned property...	5
Investigations of Overcrowding ... ..	21
Visits to Factories and Workshops ... ..	10

### *Ice Cream.*

No. of Manufacturers ... ..	Nil
No. of Retailers ... ..	5
No. of inspections of premises ... ..	4

### *Bakehouses.*

No. of Bakehouses in area ... ..	8
No. of inspections ... ..	27
No. of notices served ... ..	<div> <div>Cleanliness</div> <div>Sanitary Accom.</div> </div>
	Nil

### *Shops, Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses.*

No. of inspections made ... ..	23
No. of notices served ... ..	<div> <div>Cleanliness</div> <div>Sanitary Accom....</div> </div>
	Nil

### *Factory and Workshops Acts.*

No. of premises inspected ... ..	10
No. of notices served ... ..	<div> <div>Cleanliness</div> <div>Sanitary Accom.</div> </div>
	Nil

### *Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders.*

No. of Producers ... ..	<div> <div>Wholesalers</div> <div>Retailers</div> </div>
	<div> <div>260</div> <div>28</div> </div>
Purveyors other than producers ... ..	4
No. of inspections ... ..	75
No. of samples taken ... ..	<div> <div>Satisfactory</div> <div>Unsatisfactory</div> </div>
	<div> <div>7</div> <div>—</div> </div>



## WATER SUPPLY

*Piped Supplies.*

<i>Area Supplied.</i>	<i>Authority Supplying.</i>
Upton-upon-Severn, Hanley Castle, Ripple, Earls Croome and Severn Stoke ... ..	District Council.
Powick Mental Hospital and about 30 houses ... ..	Worcester City Corporation.
Newland, about half the parish	Malvern Urban Council. (Statutory Authority).
Madresfield, most of the parish	(Private Supply) Area in Malvern Statutory Area.

Although the scheme known as District Scheme No. 1 has now been completed, whereby large portions of the parishes of Hanley Castle, Earls Croome, Severn Stoke and part of the parish of Ripple are afforded a piped supply, the greater part of the rural district relies upon wells for a water supply. The strata vary considerably resulting in varying depths of wells, yields, and quality of the water. Generally, the quality of well supplies is of a doubtful character. The quantity varying from village to village, is also generally unsatisfactory.

It is factual that the rural population is requiring more water for the modern sanitation being gradually installed in the houses and cottages. Modern methods of farming call for a far greater supply than in the past, and it is feared that the existing well supplies will not suffice.

The comprehensive scheme to serve the whole area is in the hands of the Consulting Engineer, and it is hoped such scheme will be furnished to the Ministry of Health early in the coming year.

## WATER SAMPLING

*Upton-upon-Severn Bore-Hole Supply.*

No. of Bacteriological examinations	...	...	5
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	5
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—
No. of Chemical Analyses	...	...	4
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	4
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—



*Private Wells.*

No. of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	54
<i>Result</i> —Satisfactory	...	...	25
Unsatisfactory	...	...	29
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	15

*Swimming Baths.*

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	1
No. of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	1
<i>Result</i> —Satisfactory	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—

## HOUSING

No. of houses erected during the year...	...	...	73
(a) By Local Authority	...	...	53
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	20
(c) Properties requisitioned by Authority	...	...	2

*Housing Statistics.*

Table showing inspections under the Housing Survey advised by the “Hobhouse Report”.

Year	Houses inspected and recorded No.	Classification *				Houses included in categories 1-4 noted for action under the Rural Workers Act
		1	2	3	4	
1945	570	35	137	307	91	53
1946	337	2	122	153	60	28
1947	37	3	14	9	11	2
1948	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	944	40	273	469	162	83

\* (1) In all respects fit.

(2) Minor defects.

(3) Major defects.

(4) Unfit, and cannot be made fit at a reasonable expense.

Action under statutory powers during the year:—

Public Health Acts:—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...              | 1 |

Under the Housing Act, 1936:—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. | 7 |
|--|---|

It was found impossible during the year to continue the good progress made in housing inspection as advised by the "Hob-House Report", owing to the pressure of other work. To complete the survey it would appear necessary that a temporary whole-time official be employed and no doubt the Council will give consideration to this requirement, for from the information obtained from such Survey it is hoped to proceed eventually with the second part of the Council's re-housing scheme.

It is anticipated that there are approximately 1,000 further houses to be included in the Survey.

The general housing position remains acute and the list of applications for Council Houses has not been decreased by the houses already built since the war. New houses are being erected as expeditiously as possible, but costs and limitations made by the Central Authority impede progress.

### POST-WAR HOUSING

<i>Houses Completed.</i>		<i>In course of erection.</i>	<i>Programmes Requirements.</i>
1946	10	—	
1947	27	57	
1948	53	16	250

### SEWERAGE

Areas having a Sewerage Scheme:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey	...	ditto
Callow End	...	ditto
Earls Croome	...	ditto
Hanley Castle	...	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	...	ditto
Powick	...	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

Improvements at most of the sewage works are necessary, and as and when areas become supplied with piped water, improvements or enlargements may be necessary.

The new Powick Scheme is nearing completion, and it is hoped that during the coming year the existing unsatisfactory village scheme will become redundant by the inauguration of the new works.

The treatment of sewage in scattered rural areas generally gives rise to legitimate complaints. Investigations satisfy one that improvements in the sewage arrangements in the following parishes must be given very serious consideration in the near future—Welland, Ripple, Severn Stoke, Madresfield and Newland.

#### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	41
Private houses	...	...	...	...	19
Business premises	...	...	...	...	6
No. of other infestations	...	...	...	...	16
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	5

This work is ably carried out by Mr. R. H. Bemand, the Rodent Officer.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION

Area served	...	...	...	Whole area about 85% of properties.
Service	...	...	...	Fortnightly in most areas.
Disposal	...	...	...	To three tips.
Approximate amount of refuse...	1,100 tons per year.			

The refuse collection carried out by direct labour has now been operating for over ten years, giving, up to recently, a satisfactory service. It now becomes evident, that mainly due to the increased number of houses erected since the scheme was put into operation and the increased amount of refuse placed for collection by householders, the service must be extended. We are also called upon by three Army Camps in the area to offer facilities for the collection and disposal of their refuse, and it therefore appears necessary that the extension to the scheme must be made without undue delay.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

*Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.*

Milk	...	...25	tins	Camembert Cheese	7	pkts.
Soup	...	... 5	tins	Canned Cheese	...	3 tins
Bacon	...	... 7	lbs.	Cheese	...	...26 lbs.
Sausage Meat	...	...30 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.	Marmite	...	1 bott.
Meat and Veg.	...	...14	tins	Sauce	...	... 3 botts.
Meat Roll	...	... 3	lbs.	Orange Squash	...	1 bott.
Luncheon Meat	...	... 2	tins	Pickles (U.S.A.)	36	lbs.
Minced Beef	...	... 4	tins	Pickles		
Baked beans	...	... 2	tins	(x 160 fl. ozs.)	4	jars
Peas	...	... 1	tin	Jellies	...	... 2
Sliced Beans	...	... 1	tin	Eggs	...	...21 doz.
Apricots	...	... 1	tin	Kippers	...	... 4 stones
Oranges	...	... 2	tins	Smoked cod		
Apples (7 lb.)	...	... 1	tin	fillets	...	... 6 stones
Plums	...	... 1	tin	Salmon	...	... 2 tins
Spaghetti	...	... 2	tins	Pilchards...	...	... 2 tins
Jam	...	... 2	lbs.	Fish paste	...	...54 tins

## CONCLUSION

In concluding the report for 1948, I wish to express my sincere thanks for the help given by my able colleague, Mr. Cromwell, who carries the burden of the duties of Sanitary Inspector, and also the staff. Jointly we should like to express our thanks to the Medical Officer of Health for his help and encouragement.

I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. E. FIRTH,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Since the 5th July, 1948 the isolation hospitals have passed into the hands of the Regional Hospital Board. The only practical difference that this has made is that it has since been possible to send cases of infectious disease to the most suitable hospital without regard to previous financial agreements between councils. The staff of the isolation hospitals have shown the same spirit of co-operation as before, a fact much appreciated in the district.

General investigation of cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria and other more serious infectious diseases is carried out and advice given to contacts which might be conducive to the retarding of the spread of infection. A simple form of room disinfection by fumigation is carried out.

Visits to premises for investigation	...	...	40
Premises disinfected after notifiable diseases	...	...	23
Premises disinfected after other diseases	...	...	3
Verminous premises disinfected	...	...	2

### *Scarlet Fever.*

Of the twenty-nine cases of scarlet fever occurring during 1948, fifteen occurred in Kempsey; thirteen between January and June, and two in September after the re-opening of the school. Of these cases all excepting the last were children of school age and no case of scarlet fever occurred during holiday periods.

The last case to occur in Kempsey was an infant removed to hospital for an operation upon a septic thumb who was then found to suffer from "surgical" scarlet fever. A visit to the house revealed two other members of the family suffering from chronic septic infection of the ear and throat. Arrangements were made for these two children to be excluded from school until surgical treatment was complete. Since then no further cases have occurred.

It is tempting to assume that the cause of all cases of scarlet fever in Kempsey were due to an infection spread by this one family. However, in the absence of laboratory facilities for typing as well as for the grouping of haemolytic streptococci it is not possible to do more than surmise the source of infection in this series of cases.

*Cases of infective hepatitis* have occurred during the year in the Birtsmorton, Castlemorton, Upton and Severn Stoke districts. As this disease is not notifiable it proved very difficult to follow the course of events. Cases on the whole appeared in the earlier part of the year at Castlemorton and Birtsmorton, and in the latter part of the year around Severn Stoke, suggesting a spread across the district from west to east. From observations at Severn Stoke it appeared that only relatively few affected persons consulted their doctors, and that particularly in children the number of subclinical cases showing no jaundice was at least as great as those becoming jaundiced, however slightly.

Only one person was seriously ill, and no deaths were reported from this cause.

*Dysentery.* An outbreak at Powick Mental Hospital in which thirty-three cases occurred among the patients was promptly dealt with by the staff, no cases occurring among the rest of the population.

*Malaria.* One case occurred. The patient was infected abroad.



INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1948.

Disease	All ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65+	No age specified
Scarlet Fever	29	-	1	-	1	3	15	7	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malaria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Measles	31	2	3	3	3	3	15	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	45	6	4	8	4	3	17	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	33	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	6	6	13	-
Ophthalmia														
Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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NON-CIVILIANS: No notifications were received with respect to Non-Civilians.

# DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1948.

	Ages 1-5 years		Ages 5-14 years		Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Immunisation .....	161		27		188
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection .....	—		—		134

## *Immunisation in relation to Child Population.*

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1948.

Age at 31. 12.48. i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1948	1 1947	2 1946	3 1945	4 1944	5-9 1939-43	10-14 1934-38	Total under 15
Number Immunised .....	4	118	135	107	154	725	651	1,894
Children under 5						Children 5-14		
						1,750		
Estimated mid-year child population, 1948								

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The figures show very little change from the year 1947. However, we are now more nearly able to estimate the percentage of the population immunised. From our records we find that just over 50% of all children under the age of five have at some time been immunised. Over 100% of the children between five and fourteen have been immunised!

Now that the effect of wartime movement of population is beginning to wear off it appears that the actual percentage of children immunised lies between 40% and 50%. This figure is too low to allow of any complacency. It is necessary for at least 60% of children under the age of 15 years to have received the full primary immunisation and most of them to have had a re-inforcing injection, if sporadic cases of diphtheria are no longer to occur.

The support of the Councillors in any local campaign is of inestimable value.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Syphilitic diseases ... ..	2	2	—
Tuberculosis ... ..	9	5	4
Cancer (all forms) ... ..	23	9	14
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ... ..	29	12	17
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries ... ..	43	19	24
Bronchitis ... ..	7	7	—
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
Diseases of the digestive system ... ..	1	1	—
Nephritis ... ..	2	1	1
Premature Birth ... ..	2	2	—
Congenital Conditions (at birth) ... ..	4	3	1
Violence ... ..	9	7	2
All other causes ... ..	24	8	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ... ..	157	76	81
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>



*Tuberculosis.*

At the end of 1948 the tuberculosis register contained the names of 39 males and 43 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 19 new cases were notified, 14 on account of pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.



